FOREST ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE CENTRAL CIRCLE, BOMBAY PRESIDENCY, FOR THE FOREST YEAR 1894-95.

INTRODUCTION.

1. *Forest-conservancy-administration* in the Central Circle has undergone no change; it includes six districts:—

No.	District.	Area.	Population.	Cattle.
		Sq. m.		
1	Khándesh	10,907	1,460,851	1,231,096
2	Násik	5,940	843,582	844,949
3	Ahmednagar	6,645	888,755	1,295,473
4	Poona	5,369	1,067,800	981,547
5	Sátára	4,987	1,225,989	1,215,623
6	Sholápur	4,542	750,689	885,911
	Total ...	38,390	6,237,666	6,454,599

which for forest management are divided into seven forest divisions:—

No.	Forest Division.	Forest Area on 1st July 1894.	
		Sq. miles.	Acres.
1	East Khándesh	807	359
2	West Khándesh	1,578	485
3	Násik	1,279	129
4	Ahmednagar	846	374
5	Poona	708	224
6	Sátára	658	616
7	Sholápur	278	85
	Total ...	6,157	352

2. The *forest-area* of the Circle has increased by 159 square miles and 630 acres, and it stands at the close of the year at:—

	Square miles.	Acres.
Reserved forests	6,305	212
Protected „	12	130
Total ...	6,317	342

3. *Forest-settlements* are practically completed: 162 square miles and 249 acres of provisionally notified forests were settled during the year, and 13 square miles and 395 acres were undergoing settlement when the year closed.

4. *Forest-privileges* continue unchanged, no new ones having been granted, no old ones having been abrogated or abridged, or extended to more people.

5. *Forest-establishments* have undergone no revision: their constitution and numerical strength consist of:—

(*a*)	Indian Forest Service ...	...	...	...	10
(*b*)	Provincial Forest Service	...	...	...	4
	Extra Assistant Conservators	...	...	...	4
(*c*)	Subordinate Forest Service—				
	Rangers...	...	...	16	
	and Foresters	...	...	64	
				—	80
	Forest Guards	...	...	...	1,475
(*d*)	Office Establishment	...	...	...	91

6. *Forest-demarcation* spread over 833 linear miles of forest boundaries which were defined by 19,103 special forest boundary marks, built at a cost of Rs. 7,873.

7. *Forest-surveys* have surveyed and mapped:—

Scale.	Square miles.	Rate per square mile.		
		Rs.	a.	p.
On the 4″ scale	159·35	81	1	4
On the 8″ scale	113·03	110	13	7
On the 16″ scale	24·24	116	7	3

at a total cost of Rs. 27,136.

8. *Forest-Working-Plans* under a special Divisional Forest Officer have been applied to 1,150 square miles of reserved forests in which 433 compartments of forest blocks have been defined on the ground, including an area of 37,049 acres.

9. *Forest-offences* in respect of which prosecutions were instituted numbered 1,716 against 1,437 in the year before: and 1,458 cases have been compounded against 926 in the previous year.

10. *Forest-trespass* by cattle caused the impounding of 337,918 animals against 294,769 of last year; 100,082 of them were sheep, and 73,882 were goats.

11. *Forest-conservancy* against fires has been less satisfactory, the year of this report having been a drier one, and the vegetation in the forests having been more inflammable in consequence: 6,010 square miles and 161 acres were successfully protected against 6,126 square miles and 298 acres of 1893-94.

12. *Forest-growth*: improvement by natural as well as by artificial reproduction has been satisfactory on the whole.

13. *Forest-finances* are flourishing although the net revenue of the year exhibits a decrease of Rs. 59,109 on that of the preceding year. The gross revenue amounted to Rs. 7,84,401 and the total expenditure to Rs. 5,42,471. Had a contractor in the Násik division paid before the end of the year the whole price of the standing teak timber purchased by him for felling and removing at his own expense from lands outside of the reserved forests in the Peint range in 5 villages, the gross and the net revenues of the year of this report would have exceeded those of last, and of any previous year.

14. The *Forest Officers* who controlled the forest administration of the different divisions, with the periods they held charge respectively, are named in the following statement. The Honourable Mr. A. T. Shuttleworth was Conservator of Forests, first grade, in charge of the Central Circle, throughout the year:—

No.	Division.	Name of Officer.	Rank.	Designation.	From	To	Remarks.
1	East Khándesh...	Mr. R. H. Madan.	Extra Assistant Conservator, 1st Grade.	Divisional Forest Officer.	1st July 1894...	30th June 1895.	
2	West Khándesh	Mr. H. W. Keys...	Deputy Conservator, 4th Grade.	Do. ...	Do. ...	16th Oct. 1894.	
		,, R. H. Madan.	Extra Assistant Conservator, 1st Grade.	Do. ...	17th Oct. 1894...	15th Nov. ,,	
		,, H. W. Keys ...	Deputy Conservator, 4th Grade.	Do. ...	16th Nov. ,, ...	30th June 1895.	
		,, V. G. Tumne.	Extra Assistant Conservator, 4th Grade.	Sub-Division Forest Officer.	1st July ,, ...	16th April ,,	
		,, H. W. Keys ...	Deputy Conservator, 4th Grade.	Do. ...	17th April 1895...	7th May ,,	
		,, Abdul Rassul Khajbaksh.	Acting Extra Assistant Conservator, 4th Grade.	Do. ...	8th May ,, ...	14th June 1895.	
		,, V. G. Tumne.	Extra Assistant Conservator, 4th Grade.	Do. ...	15th June ,, ...	30th June ,,	
3	Násik	Mr. F. R. Dasai ...	Deputy Conservator, 1st Grade.	Divisional Forest Officer.	1st July 1894...	15th Aug. 1894.	
		,, W. F. D. Fisher	Assistant Conservator, 2nd Grade.	Do. ...	16th Aug. ,, ...	17th Sept. ,,	
		,, G. A. Hight ...	Deputy Conservator, 2nd Grade.	Do. ...	18th Sept. ,, ...	25th Mar. 1895.	
		,, G. R. Duxbury.	Assistant Conservator, 2nd Grade.	Do. ...	26th Mar. 1895...	30th June ,,	
		,, W. R. Gaundé.	Extra Assistant Conservator, 1st Grade.	Sub-Division Forest Officer.	1st July 1894...	5th Aug. 1894.	
		,, W. F. D. Fisher	Assistant Conservator, 2nd Grade.	Do. ...	6th Aug. ,, ...	27th Oct. ,,	
		,, G. A. Hight ...	Deputy Conservator, 2nd Grade.	Do. ...	28th Oct. ,, ...	20th Nov. ,,	
		,, G. R. Duxbury.	Assistant Conservator, 2nd Grade.	Do. ...	21st Nov. ,, ...	16th April 1895.	
		,, G. S. Hinge ...	Extra Assistant Conservator, 2nd Grade.	Do. ...	17th April 1895...	30th June ,,	
4	Ahmednagar	Mr. S. Hornidge ...	Deputy Conservator, 4th Grade.	Divisional Forest Officer.	1st July 1894...	13th June ,,	
		,, W. F. D. Fisher	Assistant Conservator, 2nd Grade.	Do. ...	14th June 1895...	30th June ,,	
5	Poona	Mr. A. D. Wilkins.	Deputy Conservator, 3rd Grade.	Do. ...	1st July 1894...	Do.	
		,, G. R. Duxbury.	Assistant Conservator, 2nd Grade.	Sub-Division Forest Officer.	9th June ,, ...	14th Nov. 1894.	Additional Sub-Division Officer.
		,, V. M. Tilak ...	Extra Assistant Conservator, 4th Grade.	Do. ...	1st July ,, ...	30th June 1895.	
6	Sátára	Mr. R. S. F. Fagan.	Deputy Conservator, 3rd Grade.	Divisional Forest Officer.	Do. ...	Do.	
		,, D. A. Thomson.	Assistant Conservator, 2nd Grade.	Sub-Division Forest Officer.	31st Oct. 1894...	5th Mar. 1895.	Do.
		,, G. S. Hinge ...	Extra Assistant Conservator, 2nd Grade.	Do. ...	1st July ,, ...	Do.	
		,, D. A. Thomson.	Assistant Conservator, 2nd Grade.	Do. ...	6th Mar. 1895...	30th June 1895.	
7	Sholápur ...	Mr. C. M. Hodgson.	Assistant Conservator, 1st Grade.	Divisional Forest Officer.	1st July 1894...	4th Nov. 1894.	
		,, W. F. D. Fisher	Do. 2nd Grade.	Do. ...	5th Nov. ,, ...	8th Mar. 1895.	
		,, G. S. Hinge ...	Extra Assistant Conservator, 2nd Grade.	Do. ...	9th Mar. 1895...	16th April ,,	
		,, W. F. D. Fisher.	Assistant Conservator, 2nd Grade.	Do. ...	17th April ,, ...	30th June ,,	
8	Working Plans, Central Circle.	Mr. L. S. Osmaston.	Deputy Conservator, 4th Grade (Sub. *pro-tem.*)	Do. ...	1st July 1894...	Do.	

CHAPTER I.

EXTENSION AND CONSTITUTION OF STATE FORESTS.

(i).—ALTERATION OF AREA.

15. A comparative statement of the Reserved and Protected forests in the divisions of the Central Circle at the opening and at the close of the forest year is presented in the following table :—

No.	Division.	Forest Area on 1st July 1894.						Forest Area on 30th June 1895.					
		Reserved.		Protected.		Total.		Reserved.		Protected.		Total.	
		Square miles.	Acres.	Square miles.	Acres.	Square miles.	Acres.	Square miles.	Acres.	Square miles.	Acres.	Square miles.	Acres.
1	East Khándesh	807	359	...	...	807	359	807	211	...	...	807	211
2	West Khándesh	1,578	485	...	...	1,578	485	1,722	22	...	...	1,722	22
3	Násik	1,279	129	...	...	1,279	129	1,279	380	...	...	1,279	380
4	Ahmednagar	835	250	11	124	846	374	836	195	11	100	847	295
5	Poona	708	224	...	...	708	224	711	244	...	...	711	244
6	Sátára	657	586	1	30	658	616	670	467	1	30	671	497
7	Sholápur	278	85	...	...	278	85	277	613	...	...	277	613
	Total ...	6,145	198	12	154	6,157	352	6,305	212	12	130	6,317	342